

Quarterly Progress Report

Project Name: Parker Mountain Sage-grouse

Utah State University Project Control Number:

Period Covered: April 1 to June 30, 2004

Project Investigators: David Dahlgren and Terry Messmer

Agency Contract Number: 020225

Submitted to: Dean Mitchell, Upland Game Coordinator, UDWR

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Narrative:

Some of April was spent coordinating efforts for the transplant of sage-grouse from Parker Mountain to Strawberry Valley. Efforts were coordinated through BYU researchers, namely Rick Baxter.

A coordinated effort to count leks took place in April as well. Members of PARM, ranchers, DWR personnel, USU personnel, USFWS personnel, and others gathered to count all the leks on Parker Mountain on April 6 and 7. Lek counts were comparatively high to past years, and may be the highest since counts started in 1967.

On April 29 a flight took place to ascertain mortality of wintering birds. No mortalities were found on the flight. One bird was subsequently found with a mortality signal upon field research efforts in May.

Field research began in early May. Approximately 10 hens were followed to their nest sites. Nest initiation seemed lower this year, compared to years past. Only five nests were located.

A PARM meeting was held on May 21. We spent a little of the morning meeting together and the rest of the afternoon on a field trip over most of Parker Mountain research. We met again on June 22, though attendance was very low. An additional meeting was set for August 10.

On June 28 graduate students from USU left for Wenatchee, WA. The 2004 WAFWA Columbian Sharptail and Sage-grouse symposium took place. All three grad students working on sage-grouse presented information at the meetings.

In the next quarter many activities will take place. Vegetation monitoring will be completed for the 2004 field season. Bird dog and pellet counts will be done throughout the experimental plots. The Utah Chukar Foundation has volunteered to help with bird dog counts. Those will take place July 15-17.